

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 018508

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION

REF: CARACAS 12178; STATE 245655

1. REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION WAS ESTABLISHED IN CARACAS IN PLACE OF FORMER PETROLEUM ATTACHE POSITION AS AUTOMATIC RESULT OF APRIL 28, 1976 MEMORANDUM ISSUED BY DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT. THIS MEMO, WHICH SET UP REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM, PROVIDED THAT "EXISTING MINERALS AND PETROLEUM ATTACHE POSITIONS SHOULD BE DESIGNATED 'RESOURCE ATTACHE' POSITIONS."

2. CARACAS POSITION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS INDICATED IN OUR 245655 BECAUSE STRONG NEED SEEN FOR COVERAGE OF RESOURCE MATTERS IN THOSE COUNTRIES BY A SPECIALIZED OFFICER, BECAUSE NO OTHER REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION IS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE COVERAGE REQUIRED,
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AND BECAUSE INTENT OF PROGRAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PROVIDE COVERAGE BY REGION. FURTHER, DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH SPECIFIC PRIORITIES POLICY GROUP ASSESSMENT (MADE DURING INITIAL STUDY OF RESOURCE PROGRAM CONCEPT) TO THE EFFECT THAT VENEZUELA IS AN AREA WHERE A WELL-TRAINED REGIONAL OFFICER COULD (1) COVER MINERALS AND PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, (2) REPORT REGULARLY ON REGIONAL

DEVELOPMENTS, AND (3) PROVIDE EXPERTISE AND ADVICE TO EMBASSIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ON PRIORITY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WILLING TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN LIST OF DESIGNATED COUNTRIES IF POST BELIEVES CURRENT SELECTION NOT APPROPRIATE.

3. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER IS COVERING BOTH PETROLEUM AND MINERAL AFFAIRS IN VENEZUELA. WE REALIZE THAT VENEZUELA IS SPECIAL CASE WHERE LOCAL SITUATION WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE OFFICER TO FOCUS HEAVILY ON PETROLEUM. THE PROGRAM MAKES ALLOWANCE FOR SUCH INSTANCES. HOWEVER, CONCENTRATION BY REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER ON ONE OF THESE TWO AREAS TO EXCLUSION OF THE OTHER WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM.

4. FOR GENERAL INFORMATION OF POST, PRINCIPAL DUTIES OF REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER ARE AS FOLLOWS: OFFICER IS CHARGED WITH COLLECTING BROAD RANGE OF INFORMATION AND DATA ON COMMODITIES RELATING TO ASSIGNED REGION AND REPORTING ON IT IN TIMELY AND ANALYTICAL FASHION. WORK IS SUPPOSED TO BE BASED BOTH ON DIRECT OBSERVATION AND ON CONTACTS WITH KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS WITHIN EACH COUNTRY OF DESIGNATED REGION. OFFICER ALSO CHARGED WITH ASSISTING POSTS IN REGION TO DEVELOP AND EVALUATE INFORMATION ON MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESERVES AND PRODUCTION, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THEM ON TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF WASHINGTON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, OFFICER EXPECTED TO STRESS DEPARTMENT'S NEED FOR INFORMATION ON OTHER GOVERNMENTS' ATTITUDES

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TOWARD COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS AND ON POLITICAL-ECONOMIC FACTORS SHAPING THOSE ATTITUDES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JWLAMONT:KAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, VE
To: CARACAS
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